

SHAUN AND GEOFF MARSH — INTERNATIONAL CRICKET SUCCESS

Statement by Member for Jandakot

MR J.M. FRANCIS (Jandakot) [12.57 pm]: I acknowledge today one of Western Australia's favourite sporting families and constituents of the great electorate of Jandakot, the Marsh family. Last Thursday, 5 November, in India, Shaun Marsh scored his maiden limited-overs century opening the batting for Australia. Shaun's three-hour innings of 112 runs came off 112 balls and included eight fours and two sixes. Though his Australian career is still in its infancy, having played just 19 games to date, Shaun has scored 726 runs at an average of 40, and is delivering upon that old proverb: to whom much is given, much is expected.

Shaun is, of course, the son of former Western Australian captain and Australian vice-captain, Geoff Marsh. Geoff had a very distinguished career for both his state and country. Combining both forms of the game, Geoff made 13 centuries for Australia and was Allan Border's longest-serving vice-captain. Geoff played 184 times for his state, scoring nearly 12 000 runs in a career spanning 15 years. Shaun's 112 last Thursday was also a significant milestone for Australian cricket, as it was the first time since one-day internationals began that both father and son had made a century for their country. Geoff is now coach of the Fremantle District Cricket Club, where his youngest son, Mitch, also plays. At the age of just 18, Mitch has already represented Western Australia twice. Like his brother and father before him, Mitch is well on the way to playing for his country, having already represented and captained Australia at the under-19 level. I thank the Marsh family for their significant contribution to Australian cricket, and wish both Shaun and Mitch continued success in their careers. It is an absolute privilege to represent the Marsh family.